



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS MEXICAN FUGITIVE WANTED FOR MURDER *El Paso ICE Fugitive Operations Team Has Removed 17 Mexican Criminal Aliens This Year*

EL PASO, Texas— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers assigned to a Fugitive Operations Team on Monday deported an 18-year-old man wanted for murder in the Mexican state of Guanajuato.

ICE deportation and removal officers handed Jorge Delgado Fernandez, also known in Mexico as “El Chocolate,” over to Mexican authorities at the top of El Paso’s Stanton Street International Bridge this morning.

Delgado Fernandez, a Mexican citizen, is wanted for the murder of Jose de Jesus Raya Gonzalez in the town of Puerta del Monte, Guanajuato. He is also believed to be a member of the Norteños 14, a violent street gang with roots in northern California that has branched out across the U.S.

Delgado Fernandez, who had re-entered the U.S. illegally after being deported last year, was convicted Nov. 8 in Elgin, Ill., of unlawful use of a weapon. The following day, ICE took custody of him, and Friday he was transported from Chicago to El Paso on a Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) flight.

Monday’s repatriation is part of a cooperative effort between El Paso ICE Detention and Removal Operations and Mexican officials that has resulted in the arrests of many fugitive criminals since it began four years ago. Fugitives wanted for serious crimes often flee Mexico and attempt to avoid prosecution by hiding in the United States. Many are convicted of additional crimes while in the U.S.



“This proactive fugitive apprehension program represents a benefit to both the United States and Mexico,” said Robert E. Jolicoeur, field office director for ICE’s El Paso Detention and Removal Operations. “We benefit by ridding our communities of dangerous criminal aliens, and Mexico is able to bring fugitives to justice.”

Delgado Fernandez allegedly killed Jose de Jesus Raya Gonzalez on May 3. Both men were attending a party in the town of Puerta del Monte, Guanajuato, when they began to argue. They stepped outside, and Delgado Fernandez allegedly shot Raya Gonzalez in the head. Delgado Fernandez also allegedly fired at two other men, but they took cover behind a truck. Delgado Fernandez is charged in Mexico with one count of murder and two counts of attempted homicide.

Working in conjunction with the Mexican Attorney General’s Office, El Paso ICE detention and removal officers have returned 17 fugitives to Mexico during 2005. In return, Mexican authorities have turned six fugitives over to U.S. authorities who are who are wanted for serious crimes in this country. Last year, local ICE detention and removal officers located and returned 21 fugitives to Mexico. Ten of those criminals were wanted for murder.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.